



# Planning & Development Services

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## SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

UPDATED 2014

SEPA FEE \$ \_\_\_\_\_  PUBLICATION FEE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Purpose of checklist:***

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

### ***Instructions for applicants:***

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

### ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:***

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

Forms online:

<http://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/Forms/SEPA/Environmental%20Checklist.pdf> OR  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/ecy05045.html>

## A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:  
Skagit County Shoreline Master Program Update
  
2. Name of applicant:  
Skagit County
  
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
Betsy Stevenson  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
(360) 416-1323
  
4. Date checklist prepared:  
January 27, 2016
  
5. Agency requesting checklist:  
Skagit County
  
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
Notice of Availability for the proposal issued February 4, 2016  
Public hearing tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2016  
Decision by the Board of County Commissioners to approve the SMP and forward to Ecology tentatively June 2016
  
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
Ecology will propose changes to the draft SMP document, which will require additional activity related to the final adoption of the SMP. Regular updates and amendments will be made, as required.
  
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.  
Shoreline Analysis Report September 2011 and Appendices A through F
  
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.  
No. The proposed approval and subsequent adoption of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a legislative proposal, effective throughout Skagit County.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
Approval by the Skagit County Commissioners, approval by the Department of Ecology, adoption by Skagit County and final approval by Ecology.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

A nonproject legislative action to adopt the Skagit County Shoreline Master Program (SMP).

Skagit County is proposing to update the County's Shoreline Master Program ("SMP"), which hasn't been comprehensively updated since its adoption in 1976. Skagit County, along with all other local governments containing shorelines of the state is required to update the SMP. The SMP is a combined planning and regulatory document that contains policies, goals, and specific land-use regulations for shorelines, and is intended to balance development, public access, and protection of natural resource and shoreline areas. State law considers the goals and policies of an SMP an element of the county comprehensive plan, and the SMP use regulations are considered a part of the county's development regulations.

Shoreline plans are required by the state Shoreline Management Act ("the SMA"), which was approved by Washington voters in a 1972 referendum. The SMA is intended to be a cooperative program between local government and the state. The Shoreline Master Program jurisdiction includes marine shorelines, rivers with a mean annual flow greater than 20 cubic feet per second, lakes and reservoirs greater 20 acres or larger, upland areas within 200 feet of these water bodies and portions of the floodplains and wetlands associated with these shorelines. It only applies to lands outside cities and towns, in unincorporated areas of the county.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

This proposal affects all lands and all land uses within shoreline jurisdiction in unincorporated Skagit County.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

a. General description of the site

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

None as part of this nonproject proposal.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

### **2. Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

### 3. Water

#### a. Surface Water:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.
- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.
- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

#### b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.  
Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

**4. Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

\_\_\_deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

\_\_\_evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

\_\_\_shrubs

\_\_\_grass

\_\_\_pasture

\_\_\_crop or grain

\_\_\_ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other \_\_\_\_\_

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development

and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

#### **b. Noise**

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

#### **8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.



Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [help]

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

## 13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts,

or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

#### 14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

**15. Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

**16. Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other \_\_\_\_\_

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Not applicable. This is a nonproject proposal.

**C. SIGNATURE**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Betsy Stevenson

Name of signee Betsy Stevenson, AICP

Senior Planner, Team Supervisor, Skagit County Planning and Development Services

Date Submitted: January 27, 2016

## D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

It is not anticipated for the adoption of the SMP to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

No increases are expected with the adoption of the SMP, so mitigation measures are not proposed.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The new goals, policies and development regulations of the SMP are designed to protect plants, animals, fish or marine life.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

The SMP is designed to protect or enhance shoreline buffer areas by utilizing mitigation sequencing, conserving existing vegetation and requiring planting of degraded buffer areas during review of proposed development within shoreline areas.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposal is not likely to deplete energy or natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

No measures are proposed.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The SMP, as currently proposed, provides for review of proposed development within shoreline areas and requires addressing possible impacts to types of places described above.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The shoreline review process and development regulations include provisions to consider and address possible impacts to such areas and include avoidance and

mitigation.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The updated SMP will affect land and shoreline use, by design. As currently written, the SMP would not allow or encourage shoreline uses that are incompatible with existing plans.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Adoption of the updated SMP.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The proposal is not likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

No measures are proposed at this time.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

In preparing the SMP, we are coordinating with other local, state and federal agencies responsible for the protection of the environment to avoid conflicts with their laws and requirements.